

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03263 111123 Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 GAC-01 SY-10 RSR-01 /092 W  
----- 034388

P 111034 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3263

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS, IR

SUBJECT: NASSER AFSHAR " GHOTLI"

SUMMARY. GOI HAS AGAIN RAISED CASE OF NASSER AFSHAR, WHO IS REGARDED BY IRAN AS NOTORIOUS FRAUD, EMBEZZLER AND SUPPORTER OF ANTI-SHAH ACTIVITIES IN US. SHAH HAS RECEIVED INFO THAT AFSHAR ISSUED US PASSPORT OCT. 13, 1970 AND WISHES KNOW WHETHER USG CONSIDERED HIS RECORD IN TAKING SUCH ACTION AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT AT LEAST CONSULTING WITH GOI, GIVEN CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION ON CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO ISSUANCE OF US PASSPORT TO AFSHAR WHICH WE CAN PASS TO GOI.

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL DARAI CONVOKED DCM MAY 10 FOR DISCUSSION OF CASE OF NASSER AFSHAR, WHO ALSO GOES BY LAST NAME OF GHOTLI IN IRANIAN FILES. DARAI READ FROM CAREFULLY PREPARED STATEMENT MAKING CLEAR HIGH-LEVEL IRANIAN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. HE EVENTUALLY CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SHAH, WHO HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED NEW INFORMATION ABOUT AFSHAR WHICH HAD INCENSED HIM AND ON WHICH HE WISHED CLARIFICATION FROM USG.

2. DARAI STARTED HIS PRESENTATION WITH RECITATION OF AFSHAR'S EARLY CAREER IN IRAN DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II, DURING WHICH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 03263 111123 Z

HE WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN SEVERAL CASES OF EMBEZZLEMENT AND FRAUD. AS BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAVE LARGE FILES ON THIS INDIVIDUAL, WE ARE NOT REPEATING THIS PART OF DARAI'S ACCOUNT. AFSHAR EVENTUALLY ESCAPED FROM IRAN AND HIS SUBSEQUENT CAREER TOOK HIM TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, INCLUDING SWITZERLAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK, AND FINALLY TO US. GOI ATTEMPTED PURSUE HIM AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS REQUESTED COUNTRY CONCERNED TO ARRANGE HIS RETURN TO IRAN. THESE EFFORTS FAILED, USUALLY ON GROUNDS THAT COUNTRY CONCERNED DID NOT HAVE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH IRAN. LATEST EFFORT OF THIS NATURE WAS IN 1969 WHEN GOI ASKED FOR HIS EXTRADITION FROM US. ON MAY 14, 1969 USG REJECTED REQUEST.

3. DARAI SAID THAT AFSHAR'S ACTIVITIES IN US CONTINUED TO COME TO GOI'S ATTENTION. GOI IS AWARE OF HIS PERFORMANCE AS PUBLISHER OF SCURRILOUS SHEET KNOWN AS IRAN FREE PRESS. IN ADDITION HIS NAME POPS UP OCCASIONALLY AS INFLUENCE PEDLAR, ONE SUCH CASE BEING HIS ATTEMPT OBTAIN \$300,000 COMMISSION FOR ALLEGEDLY INFLUENCING GENERAL FOUFANIAN IN FAVOR OF BMY CONTRACT FOR TANK RETROFIT FACTORY IN MIS. ACCORDING TO DARAI THIS WAS COMPLETE FRAUD AS AFSHAR HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DECISIONS ON CONTRACT.

4. DARAI WENT ON TO SAY THAT USG'S APPARENT LACK OF CONCERN AND PERMISSIVENESS ABOUT AFSHAR'S CONTINUING SCANDALOUS ANTI-IRANIAN ACTIVITIES IN US AND HIS ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS SUCH AS BMY IN FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES ARE HARD FOR IRANIANS TO UNDERSTAND. HOWEVER, WHAT REALLY UPSET SHAH WAS DISCOVERY FEW DAYS AGO THAT ON OCTOBER 13, 1970 AFSHAR WAS ISSUED

US PASSPORT. ALLOWING AFSHAR FREEDOM TO PUBLISH HIS SCANDALOUS SHEET AND GRANTING HIM US CITIZENSHIP IS BAD ENOUGH BUT UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER US LAWS. WHAT HIM DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IS HOW USG CAN ISSUE HIM PASSPORT WITHOUT CHECKING INTO HIS RECORD, ESPECIALLY WITH GOI, WHICH WOULD REVEAL THAT HE IS A KNOWN EMBEZZLER ENGAGED IN TREASONABLE AND INSULTING ANTI-IRANIAN ACTIVITIES, COOPERATING WITH RADICAL ANTI-IRANIAN ELEMENTS IN US, GUILTY OF US TAX EVASION IN 1969, AND SUSPECTED OF

INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND IN VARIOUS BANK AND OTHER SWINDLES. HOW CAN US ALLOW SUCH A CROOK TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT PROVIDING HIM WITH UMBRELLA OF USG PROTECTION OVER-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 03263 111123 Z

SEAS? THIS IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING GIVEN CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND US AND RECORD OF CONSULTATION ON MATTERS KNOWN TO BE SENSITIVE OR OF IMPORTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRY.

5. DCM SAID THAT EMBASSY WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF AFSHAR'S ACTIVITIES IN US, INCLUDING IRAN FREE PRESS, AND AGREED THAT

AFSHAR'S PERFORMANCE WAS SCANDALOUS AND HIS EFFORTS TO MOUNT ANTI-IRANIAN CAMPAIGN IN US EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE. IN FACT IN LAST TWO YEARS EMBASSY HAD SEVERAL TIMES RAISED WITH DEPARTMENT QUESTION WHETHER IRAN FREE PRESS COULD BE CLOSED DOWN. MATTER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED BUT LAWYERS HAD CONCLUDED THAT UNDER US LAWS THERE WAS REGRETTABLY NO BASIS FOR SUCH ACTION. AS FOR US PASSPORT, EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED ON THIS ASPECT OF CASE AND WOULD ASK DEPARTMENT FOR FULL REPORT.

6. FYI EMBASSY FILES INCLUDE MESSAGE (TEHRAN 2932, JAN. 19, 1967) INDICATING AFSHAR HAD US PASSPORT IN 1967. END FYI.

7. COMMENT: IN DREDGING UP THIS CASE IT OCCURS TO US THAT GOI IS PUTTING US ON NOTICE AND INDIRECTLY SUGGESTING THAT WE TIDY UP AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ANTI-SHAH ELEMENTS IN US TO REDUCE OR AVOID UNTOWARD INCIDENTS OR ANTI-SHAH DEMONSTRATIONS  
E E E E E E E

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973TEHRAN03263  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhzm.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 21 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980217  
**Subject:** NASSER AFSHAR " GHOTLI"  
**TAGS:** CPAS, IR  
**To:** NEA  
**SECSTATE WASHDC**  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005